

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-17 and 20-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 17 are amended herein. Claims 3, 4, 7, 18 and 19 are canceled herein. Claims 21-24 are added for examination. Claims 1-13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated. Claims 6-9, 13-15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and prompt allowance of the present application.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,901,888). Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention over that disclosed by Schneider et al.

First, Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended to recite "a freestanding support" and "extensions...including attachment members for directly engaging and supporting articles of fabric..." Schneider et al. fail to disclose at least these features. Rather, Schneider et al. disclose a "Hook 'N' Hang clothing organization device...comprising a hanger" for hanging from a rod in a closet. Col. 4, lines 27-31. The device disclosed by Schneider et al. is not "freestanding," as is recited in claim 1 of the present application. Additionally, Schneider et al. disclose a device including arms 5, 6 defining hang locations 10 or holes. The hang locations 10 are adapted to receive and support conventional hangers. Col. 5, lines 34-43. Schneider et al. do not disclose "attachment members

for directly engaging and supporting articles," as is also recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Thus, it is clear that Schneider et al. disclose a device substantially different from that of the present invention. Schneider et al. disclose a device that requires additional components such as conventional hangers to effectuate its purpose. Additionally, the device disclosed by Schneider et al., as stated above, is adapted to hang in a closet; it is not freestanding. The subject matter of the present invention is not adapted for use in a closet, but rather, for use as an independent storage device.

Next, Applicant submits that claim 11 has been amended to recite "a latch mechanism disposed within an opening in [a] post" and an "extension including a securable end adapted to be inserted into the opening in the post and secured thereto by the latch mechanism when the extension is in [a] compact arrangement to provide support for the clothing items." Schneider et al. fail to disclose such a feature. Rather, as depicted in FIG. 1, Schneider et al. disclose securing mechanisms 3, 4 disposed on an external surface of a central body 1b. Such a configuration can cause the securing mechanisms to interfere with normal operation of the rest of the device, as well as decrease the aesthetic appeal of the device. Schneider et al. do not disclose a securing mechanism disposed within an opening in a post, as is recited in claim 11 of the present application. Additionally, Schneider et al. do not disclose a securable end of an extension being disposed within the opening in the post for being secured thereto, as is also recited in claim 11 of the present application.

Applicant asserts that Schneider et al. fail to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of claims 1 and 11 and, therefore, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Schneider et al. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that claims 2, 5, 6, 8-10 and 12 are also patentable over Schneider et al. as being dependent on a patentable base claim. Claims 3 and 7 have been canceled and, therefore, the

rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11-13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saladee (U.S. Patent No. 1,236,212). Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11 and 16 have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention over that disclosed by Saladee.

Particularly, Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended to recite "a plurality of extensions...including attachment members for directly engaging and supporting articles of fabric, wherein the extensions may pivotably be moved between a first position generally parallel with the support and a second position at an angle relative to the support, the attachment members adapted to directly engage and support the articles of fabric when the extensions are in both the first and second positions." Applicant asserts that Saladee fails to disclose such a feature.

Rather, Saladee discloses a folding clothes rack having a plurality of foldable arms 9. "In operation, when desiring to suspend clothing for drying and other purposes, the arms 9 are swung outwardly to a horizontal position..." Page 2, lines 4-7. "When not desiring to employ the device further, the arms 9 may be swung upwardly to a substantially vertical position..." Page 2, lines 18-22. Thus, it is clear from the description in Saladee, that the device disclosed by Saladee is only operable for supporting articles of clothing or other fabric when the arms 9 are disposed in the horizontal position. Saladee makes no mention of utilizing the arms 9 to support articles when they are in a position generally parallel to the post on which they are supported, as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Additionally, Applicant submits that claim 11 has been amended to recite a post including "a latch mechanism" and "an extension adjustably connected to the

post...including a securable end," wherein the securable end is selectively secured to the post with the latch mechanism. Applicant submits that Saladee fails to disclose a latch mechanism and, more particularly, a latch mechanism for securing a securable end of an extension.

Rather, Saladee, as stated above, simply discloses a clothes rack having foldable arms for supporting articles of clothing when in a horizontal position. Saladee, as stated above, specifically describes that when use of the rack is no longer desired, the arms are simply folded up toward the post on which they are supported and stored away. Saladee does not even mention the possibility of supporting articles on the arms when in the stored position and, therefore, does not suggest a latch mechanism for securing the arms in the upright position, as is recited in claim 11 of the present application.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claim 16 has been amended to recite extensions and "attachment members permanently extending from each extension for directly engagingly securing clothes items, the attachment members being freely movable relative to each extension..." Saladee fails to disclose such a feature.

Rather, Saladee discloses arms 9 having a plurality of members 12 secured thereto by bolts 14. Saladee, at Page 1, lines 91-100, discloses that the members 12 may be turned relative to the arms 9, but does not suggest they may be freely movable, as recited in claim 16 of the present application.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Saladee fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every limitation of claims 1, 11 and 16 and, therefore, claims 1, 11 and 16 are patentable over Saladee. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that claims 2, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 20 are patentable over Saladee as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Claims 4 and 18 have been canceled and,

therefore, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. Applicant asserts that, in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks establishing the patentability of claim 11, claims 13-15 are patentable as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saladee in further view of Wood (U.S. Patent No. 1,476,667). Claim 19 has been canceled and, therefore, the rejection of this claim is rendered moot.

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saladee in further view of Schneider. Applicant asserts that, in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks establishing the patentability of claim 1, claims 6, 8 and 9 are patentable as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Claim 7 has been canceled and, therefore, the rejection of this claim is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**New Claims**

Claims 21-24 have been added for examination. The subject matter of claims 21-24 is supported by the specification, as originally filed. Applicant submits that claims 21-24 contain novel and non-obvious subject matter in view of the record and, therefore, respectfully requests prompt and favorable consideration thereof.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Additionally, Applicant believes that all the claims presented herein are novel and non-obvious as none of the references currently on record teach, suggest, or disclose, alone or in combination, each and every element thereof. Thus, Applicant believes the current application should be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,  
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